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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Disaster Relief completes busiest year

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit assisted in more disasters, ministered to more people, and involved more volunteers in 2002 than in any other year of service since its inception.

"We can't talk about 2002 without talking about 2001," said Jim Didlake, Men's Ministry Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Prior to 2001, we typically spent about 40 days in the field doing disaster relief. In 2001 we were out over 100 days. Last year, we were on site over 130 days.

"This has given us a new vision for disaster relief," Didlake continued. "What made this year stand out is looking back at the years that we were out just a few days." Disaster relief responses in 2002 included:

- In March, a team was sent to New York for the fourth time since 9/11. Nineteen volunteers continued the feeding ministry at Ground Zero. Work continued with Graffiti Church in Manhattan, with funds being used for benevolence assistance and for ministries for emotional trauma.

- On May 20, a team of nine volunteers went to West Virginia to do "mud-out" after floods there.

- On June 4, the final team to New York continued the feeding operation, with 22 volunteers operating the kitchen at Staten Island at the Fresh Kills landfill. Team members were put in clean suits and respirators while working at the landfill.

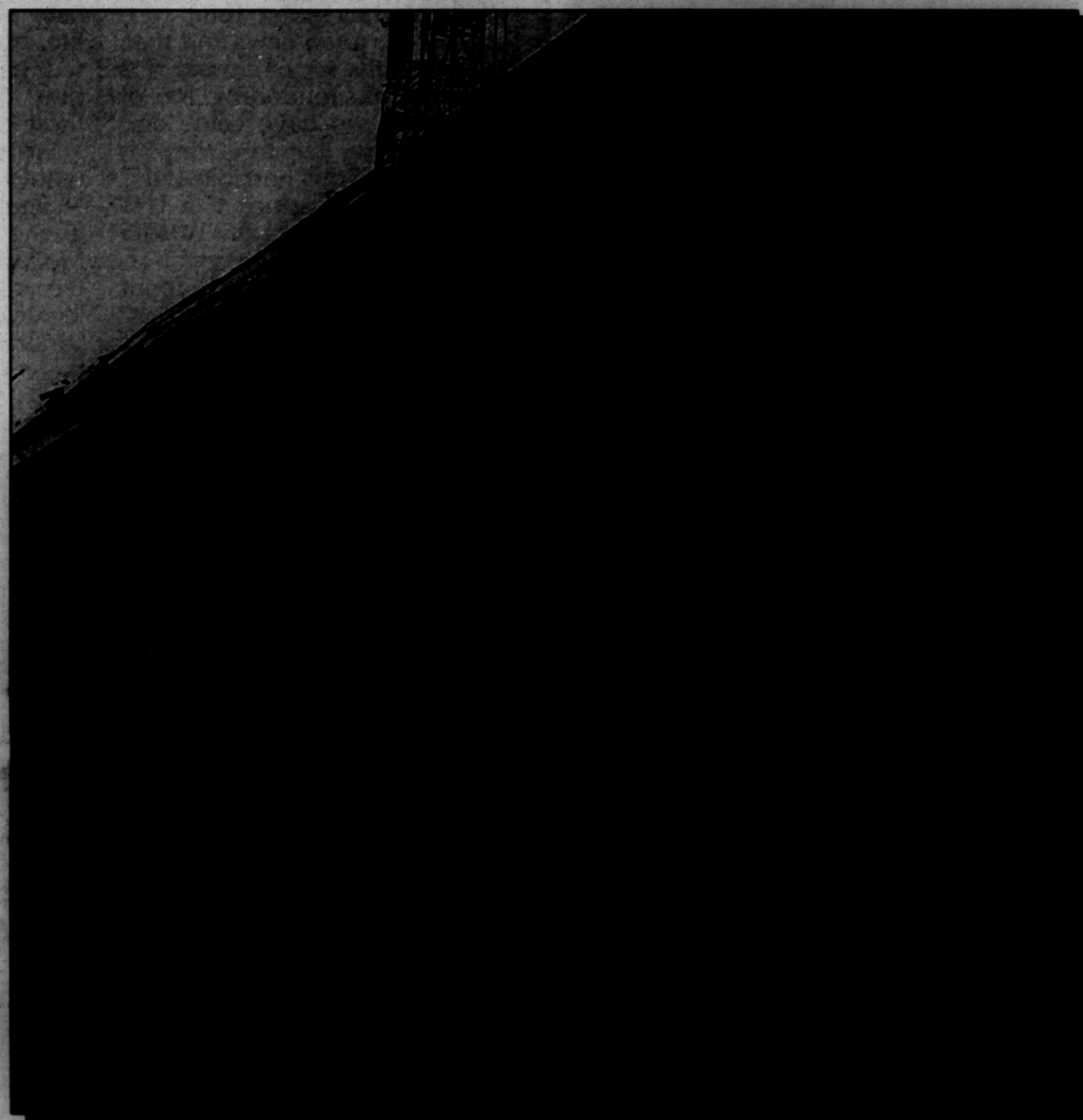
- On July 11, seven childcare workers and equipment went to Bandera, Texas, to assist with ministry to flood victims, with additional ministry provided to pastors, parents, and Red Cross workers.

- On July 19, two teams including 11 people went to Israel and Gaza, with ministry to children's camps, food distribution and general work. The trip provided many ministry opportunities under intense and dangerous conditions.

- On September 16-23, Barri Shirley, representing the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief ministry, joined missionaries in Southern Russia to tour devastated flood areas and make recommendations for support by the International Mission Board.

- On September 23, after Tropical Storm Isidore, the disaster relief unit with volunteer teams moved to First Church, Biloxi, to begin feeding. The storm also affected Gulfshore Assembly, Shoreline Park Church, and numerous coastal homes. Mud-out and cleanup teams also served.

- The feeding unit was closed October 2 at the approach of Hurricane Lili to the Louisiana coast, and on October 4 the unit was re-opened and fed workers for the next five days. Feeding teams also assisted



**DAMAGE REPAIR** — Workers at East End Church, Columbus, work to replace a missing wall from the sanctuary with a temporary wall to keep out the elements after a November 10 tornado swept through the area. The Columbus tornado was one of several activations in a busy 2002 for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

the Arkansas unit in Abbeville, La., and a chainsaw team from Calhoun Association worked in the area. During Isidore, the unit fed 10,666 meals and involved 127 volunteers. In Louisiana, Mississippi Baptists assisted with about 12,000 meals and numerous clean up projects.

- During the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting in late October, a survey team and cleanup team from Pearl River Association assisted in cleanup after a storm in the local area.

- On November 10, Columbus experienced severe tornado damage. For the next two weeks, Mississippi disaster relief volunteers, along with others from Calhoun Association, Pearl River Association, and local Columbus churches, prepared 60,000 meals involving 37 task force members and over 200 additional volunteers. Cleanup teams from Calhoun and Prentiss also assisted with cleanup in Alabama.

- The disaster relief ministry helped with three fires and a butane explosion in Yalobusha and Lincoln Associations. This

included funding to help with uninsured losses, plus assistance to two churches — one with flooding and one with an electrical fire.

- On December 19-22, the disaster relief unit responded to the tornado that struck Newton. Eighteen volunteers served 4000 meals.

"As soon as a disaster occurs, I try to get to the area," Didlake said. "I'll survey the situation, talk to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross, and see if there's anything we can do to help with feeding and cleanup."

Currently, the disaster relief team consists of about 150 volunteers. Additionally, several Baptist associations have disaster teams of their own.

"The secret of what we're doing today is the quality of our volunteers," Didlake said. "They know if they don't report to help, there's a hole to be filled."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit and associated ministries are funded by gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches to the annual Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

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### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Missionary remembered

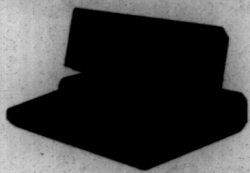
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Jibla residents mourn

Programs assist seniors



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# 4,000 little white crosses

**O**n a beautiful, wind-swept winter morning earlier this week, I touched 4,000 little white crosses planted on the south lawn of the State Capital Building in Jackson.

It took quite a while, but I felt it was necessary. I felt it was necessary because each one of the 4,000 little white crosses represented a life never lived and human potential unfulfilled — a baby aborted last year in Mississippi.

The 4,000 crosses stood in stark contrast to the otherwise good news released this week that America's abortion rate is at its lowest level since infanticide was legalized in 1972 by the highest court in the land. Mississippi's abortion rate has fallen, too.

Reading the good news and then coming upon the sea of crosses was a true paradox, reminding me of both how far we have come and how far we have left to go in ridding our land of this horrible evil.

In the 30 years since the U.S. Supreme Court created out of thin air a constitutional right to abortion, we have learned much about this once-unusual "procedure" used only to "flush" the "product of conception" from a mother's uterus, the death of the "fetus" only an antiseptic result of a woman's "reproductive freedom."

However, professors in medical and law schools around the country consider laughable the trimester system of development concocted by the justices of the Supreme Court of that day, which has doomed millions of babies to death in the abortion mills that quickly sprang up all over the country to take advantage of the financial rewards of the court's ruling.

Then came the remarkable advances in sonography and photographic techniques that have provided a clear window of the breathtaking development of a child from the moment of conception. A muscle mass begins to beat as a heart just days after conception.

Fingers and toes bud rapidly. Body parts quickly take on recognizable shapes.

In the 30 years since this "simple" out-patient procedure was legalized, we have discovered that many mothers (and fathers) of these dead babies carry the psychological and emotional scars of killing their children, often for the rest of their lives.

It's called phantom baby syndrome and it's real. The person who suffers from this syndrome knows a baby should be in his/her life, but isn't. As a society, we have only begun to pray the terrible price for these crippled people.

In the 30 years since would-be mothers were "liberated" from the onus of giving birth, even Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff in the *Roe v. Wade* case that legalized abortion, and Sandra Cano, the plaintiff in the companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, talk publicly of being deceived and manipulated by pro-abortionists.

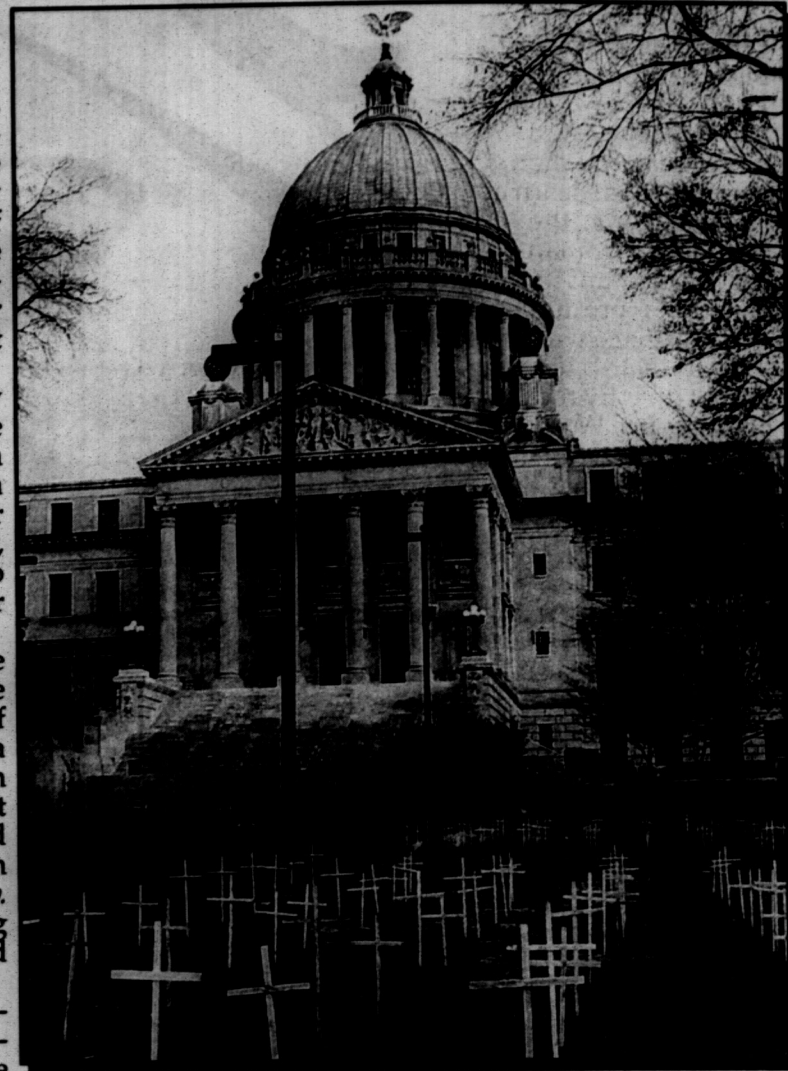
Do you know why sidewalk counselors — the people who stand outside abortion clinics, hoping and praying for the opportunity to convince a woman not to abort her baby — are so despised by pro-abortion supporters and lawmakers?

They are despised because their opponents know that if they get a fleeting chance to speak to a would-be mother being led into the abortion clinic, that mother will likely choose life for her baby. She will likely choose life for her baby because she knows, deep down in her heart, that what she is about to do is not

right. Whether or not she is religious, she knows it's not part of the natural order to kill her offspring. She knows that inside of her is a living child, a person, a human being. She knows, to the depths of her soul, that she should not kill her baby.

All evidence points to the medical, legal, emotional, and spiritual bankruptcy of legalized abortion. Yet the 4,000 little white crosses continue to be planted every year in Mississippi.

Why?



## GUEST OPINION:



### *Prayer vital part of mission effort*

By Wanda S. Lee, executive director  
Woman's Missionary Union



**JIBLA BAPTIST HOSPITAL** — The Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen, founded 35 years ago by Southern Baptists with a heart for the people of Yemen, encompasses several buildings on a compound adjacent to a mosque with a minaret. Three Southern Baptist workers were slain there December 30 by a lone Muslim extremist. (BP photo)

His world through His children. To be prepared for God to work in our lives, study and awareness of His world is necessary.

As we expand our horizons, we can better see God's plan for reaching the world and our personal role in his plan. The more we learn, the more specific our praying will be as we support worldwide missions efforts.

While we mourn the deaths of Martha Myers, Bill Koehn, and Kathy Gariety, let us remember the undying love and compassion they selflessly extended to a lost world. With perseverance, commitment, and dedication, their work and ministry undoubtedly made an eternal impact on the Yemeni people they loved so dearly.

As our work continues in Yemen and many other areas, let me encourage you to pray fervently for missionaries, their families, and the people they serve. Give thanks to God for those who have committed their lives to serve him and commit yourself to becoming a lifelong missions learner and supporter.

*Lee, a registered nurse, is a veteran of numerous medical mission trips and other mission trips around the world.*



# THE BAPTIST RECORD



# Quiet toymaker guarded lifestyle, word

BURLESON, Texas (BP) — For hours Bill Koehn sat at his workbench, carefully fashioning scraps of wood into toys for the children of Yemen.

A Southern Baptist representative and hospital administrator at the Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen, Koehn never expected money in exchange for the toys, the toy maker's friends and relatives said at a Burleson, Texas, memorial service in honor of the slain International Mission Board (IMB) worker.

In fact, seeing the smiles of the children who received the toys was payment enough for the 28-year veteran worker, they said.

Koehn, who believed that sharing the Gospel began with "lifestyle and keeping your word," was among three career personnel killed in Yemen Dec. 30 by an Islamic extremist who reportedly told police he wanted to "cleanse his religion and get closer to Allah." Also killed were physician Martha Myers of Alabama and purchasing manager Kathy Gariety of Wisconsin.

More than 200 people attended the memorial service at Cross Timber Church, among them IMB President Jerry Rankin, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jack Graham, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins and approximately

100 current and former IMB workers. Rankin said at the memorial service that the murders in reality had not accomplished what the gunman intended.

"The gunman did not take their lives, for they had already given them to the people of Yemen years ago."



THREE DECADES OF CARE — William Koehn (left), one of three Southern Baptist workers slain Dec. 30 in Yemen, visits with a patient at the Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen, where he had worked nearly three decades before being murdered by a Muslim fanatic who smuggled a weapon past hospital security. (BP photo)



REMEMBERING DAD, FRIEND — Janelda Koehn Pearce (left) receives a hug from family friend Jon Tillinghast after a memorial service in Burleson, Texas, celebrating the life and work of her father, William E. Koehn, a 30-year Baptist hospital administrator in Yemen killed Dec. 30 by a Muslim gunman. (BP photo by Mo Sadjadpour)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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FSY TO BFLIORROY  
VOPFAEO GW KTOXL  
ASVORXOW. FSY TO  
NOSK LGASY FVGAK KTO  
IXRRFZOE, KOFPTXSZ.  
BFLC EXJ: EXJ

Clue: T = H  
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Eight; Four

## Father remembered as 'good and faithful servant'

BURLESON, Texas (BP)— During a memorial service in honor of their father, the daughters of slain Southern Baptist hospital administrator Bill Koehn made public letters they had written to their father after they received news of his death. The letters, friends and family said, were part of the daughters' process of grieving and a way to honor their father's service.

Janelda Koehn Pearce and Samantha Koehn McGlothlin granted permission for Baptist Press to reprint the letters.

Daddy,

There are not enough words to express how much I love and respect you. I am proud of the ways you used the precious years you had on earth. I know that on Dec. 30 when you met Jesus, he smiled and said, 'Welcome home my good and faithful servant!' I can see the lines of people thanking you for giving to the Lord so they may be saved. I can also see you, because of your very nature, laying the crowns you stored up in heaven at the feet of Jesus.

I celebrate your life and the way you lived it. You taught me to be a cheerful giver of one's self. Once, when I pouted about setting the table for mom, you told me that God only wants a cheerful giver, not only monetarily but also in service to him. Dad, not only did you preach this principle but you lived it in the ways you gave of yourself, your time, your talents and your money. You always gave cheerfully, never expecting anything in return.

Dad, I am glad you taught me to be thankful 'in all things.' Because of what you taught me I can even find things to be thankful for in your death. Your sacrifice was not in vain; in contrast you touched even more lives in your death. God's kingdom has been and will be glorified in this, the greatest sacrifice you have ever made.

Dad, thank you for showing me how to be a good parent by your example. I've always said that if my children loved and respected me as much as I love and respect you, then I will feel as though I am a successful parent. You taught me such priceless values. I only wish your grandchildren could see you demonstrate those qualities like I had the privilege of witnessing. You are a man of incredible integrity, humility, and wisdom. Your legacy will live on forever.

I know you never thought your simple life would touch the world but in giving your life, even unto death, for those who loved you, you touched more people than you could ever imagine. You left this earth in great honor and in that you also honored God.

I could not wait until October when we were finally going to be together as a family. Now that will never happen, but as a legacy to you and your wonderful life, every time I think about or long for the things I wish you were here to share I will remind your grandchildren of who you were and we will pray for those who are unsaved, especially those in Yemen.

Daddy, I want you to know that I count it the highest honor to be known as your

daughter. Let my life not put you to shame. I love you Daddy!

Samantha, your 'Mouse'

Dear Daddy,  
I just wanted to write you and tell you how much I loved and admired you. I love how you held the truth and honesty at a premium. I love how you always tried to learn from problems. You once said after Mom had pneumonia that probably anyone who couldn't afford meds for pneumonia would get them anyway, after watching Mom struggle just to breathe.

I remember how you taught us that marriage was forever. You epitomized unconditional love.

How proud I am to tell people about the poor children you sent to school. The poor you fed with the proceeds from your crafts. How you ministered to those orphaned boys: toys, food, clothes, and medical care. How you cared for the prisoners.

You are in heaven now collecting your long deserved crowns.

How I shall miss the shop time we will never have; the Habitat for Humanity house we won't build together.

You are free from pain — no more hip pain, no more gout.

You used to say to me when we would leave: 'God alone knows when we shall see each other again.' And my response always is: 'Then we will leave it in His hands.'

I love you, Daddy.

Jay



# AAEO reaching for record heights in '03

SHOCCO SPRINGS, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptists contributed a record \$49.25 million to North American missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2002, representing a two percent increase over the amount contributed the previous year.

North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Robert E. Reccord announced the total during the annual Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive board meeting, Jan. 11-14 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Alabama.

"With the drop in income last year from our reserves and FamilyNet television ad sales, it was only the faithfulness of Southern Baptists through the [Annie Armstrong] Offering and the Cooperative Program that kept missions viable in the economic challenges which we still face," Reccord said.

The volunteer effort of thousands of dedicated pastors, WMU workers, and other local church volunteers keep

the promotional costs to an astonishing one percent of the total amount raised, Reccord

reported. Even that amount, however, is paid for by other sources so that 100% of Annie

Armstrong receipts directly support missionaries and their work.

"This is truly a miraculous offering," Reccord said.

WMU initiated the national offering in 1895 to support Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States. In 1903, the offering was named in honor of WMU's founder, Annie Armstrong. More than \$920 million has been given since that time.

The 2003 offering will be promoted in most Southern Baptist churches this spring between the March 2-9 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Easter on April 20. A special section in the February 27 issue of The Baptist Record will be detail the offering.

The 2003 national goal is \$53 million. The offering supplies more than 40% of the NAMB budget. The NAMB cooperates with state Baptist conventions in supporting 5,204 missionaries in the United States and Canada.



MISSIONARY AT WORK — Norman Cannada (right), a church planting missionary in Charleston, W.V., prays with a young woman in her inner-city community. Cannada's work is supported in part by Southern Baptist gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (BP photo by Ken Touchton)

## Tablet find may date to Temple

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A Southern Baptist seminary professor voiced caution Jan. 15 amid news reports highlighting what could be, as one account put it, "the most significant archaeological finding yet in Jerusalem and the land of Israel." If authenticated, a sandstone tablet apparently discovered on the Temple Mount would become the first piece of physical evidence confirming a biblical text.

The tablet is about the size of a legal pad and has a 10-line inscription in ancient Phoenician that corresponds with a passage in 2 Kings 12 calling for temple repairs.

According to an Associated Press (AP) report, experts at Israel's Geological Institute have studied the tablet over the past year, and their findings show it is authentic. Researchers at the institute found microscopic flecks of gold that could have been burnt into the stone when a building containing both the tablet and gold objects was destroyed, the AP reported Jan. 14.

Steven M. Ortiz, assistant professor of archaeology at New Orleans Seminary, told Baptist Press that the tablet could be a forgery. "I suspect that the initial sensationalism of this find will quickly subside as it is subject to scrutiny by the academic community," he said.

The discovery, if authentic, could not only serve to confirm the biblical text but also to increase tension between Jews and Muslims in Jerusalem. Muslims insist that no Jewish shrine ever stood at the Temple Mount, and that claim has contributed to failed negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians over control of the ancient landmark in Jerusalem.

### GOD'S GREAT POWER SOURCE

Prayer — genuine, honest, fervent, effectual prayer is God's great source of power to meet every need, accomplish every task, and bless every life each day, for every generation. That being true, most of us who know the Lord and have touched or been touched by the power of prayer seem to cycle in and out of our experience of and dependence on prayer. It seems as though we discover and rediscover prayer truths and continually relive the great adventure of prayer.

Over the past few years, millions have been guided to a new prayer experience through the Old Testament Prayer of Jabez. Recently, a number of new books have been written and published and are being devoured that refocus us on God's call to prayer. Among the new writings are two books on The Lord's Prayer, one by Ken Hemphill and one by Ray Pritchard.

For me, my latest prayer journey began with the entrance into this new year — 2003. It was not a New Year's resolution that I would pray more, or study more about prayer, or memorize more verses about prayer; instead, it was simply a renewal of commitment to the Lord that I did not want to go through this year unless I could go through it walking and talking with Him. So, in January I began reading the book, *And When You Pray*, by Ray Pritchard.

A number of times throughout my personal journey and my pastoral experience with congregations, I have focused on The Lord's Prayer. There are a number of things about The Lord's Prayer that have always caught my attention: its simplicity — there are really no big, multisyllabic words to stumble over; its shortness — only about 65

words frame this prayer; and its scope — it covers everything. Whatever I face now, need, or experience in the future, is right there.

As I was reading through the book, I came to a "do something" section that the author had put in each chapter. This one said, "Re-write The Lord's Prayer, putting it into your own words." Well, I thought that was rather bodacious. I reasoned to myself, "Well, certainly I can't improve on what the Lord gave us and I'm not going to sit here and pretend as though I can do better by adding anything or even reshaping the prayer." But, the writer spoke to me and said in his action step, "Add any phrases that will help you express each petition in terms of your own circumstances."

Well, I sat there for a while and I began to think in terms of my own life, my own culture, my own history, my own dreams, and my own shortcomings. I decided that maybe I would give it a shot. I have known The Lord's Prayer since I was a preschooler, yet I never thought about just writing it down and talking to the Father for my own needs for that day. So, I began...

*Dear God of greatness and vastness, whose very presence allows me to see my smallness, and who alone is worthy of my worship.*

*Help me to see the "big picture" of your work —*

## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

*without labels,  
without boundaries,  
without colors or languages,  
without limitations or laziness,  
and then simply do  
what you ask me to do.*

*Please meet my needs of today —  
health,  
strength,  
food,  
refreshment,  
friends and focus.*

*Please remove the barriers I often set up...  
and help me remove barriers that others  
may be setting up around me.*

*Today, lead me to each spot —  
every experience,  
and any person, to be right where  
you want me to be...  
Right where you are!  
Help me to avoid temptations and to move away  
from them a mile before they come into my path.  
Lord, today is your day! I am available for  
Kingdom business and know your resources  
are ready for my use. Then at day's end, I'll  
be able to look back and see where we have  
been together and say, "the Lord deserves all  
of the glory for what has happened, for victories  
won, for trials endured, and for people  
enjoyed. Amen."*

The Lord gave us a model of praying and it was only about 65 words long. My prayer, at least on this occasion, with the same frame, but with my verbiage, was over three times as long. As I finished and reflected on the prayer, it occurred to me that two wonderful aspects of the prayer remained the same: 1) the Father deeply cares about me, and 2) I deeply care about the Father and His will for my life.

He is waiting to hear from us today. Don't disappoint Him. Do enjoy Him!



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Nicky Lewis** of First Church, Maben, recently received a pin for having perfect attendance for 39 years.

**Gene Douglas**, former pastor of West McComb Church, McComb, resigned in July to become a full-time evangelist. He has since traveled throughout Mississippi, Missouri, and Louisiana.

Douglas is available for revivals, retreats, and conferences. He can be contacted at (601) 567-2370.

**Lucy Trigg** of Union Church, Seminary, has not missed a Sunday service in over a year. She is pic-



**Gertrude Palmertree**, pictured at Unions Old Fashion Christmas Tea.

Dublin Church, Carson, presented a \$1,500 check to **Shelly Bates** for her student mission work in Hong Kong. Pictured (from left) are Pat Nations, pastor, and Bates.

Poplar Creek Nations Church, Kilmichael, honored **Gertrude Palmertree** on Nov. 10 for her 71 years as a member. A surprise service and luncheon paid tribute to Palmertree.

On Dec. 22 **Brett Landon Williams** was licensed to preach. He is a senior at Blue Mountain College working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in church related vocations with an emphasis in business administration. Brett is an active member of Bellevue Church, Oxford. He is pictured with the interim pastor, Winston Ross.



**Pat Nations, pastor, and Shelly Bates**



**Brett Williams and Winston Ross, interim pastor**



**Lucy Trigg**

## BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

THE 11TH ANNUAL  
WILLIAM E. CONGER, JR. LECTURES  
ON BIBLICAL PREACHING

# PREACHING THE GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 25-27, 2003

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 23, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

*Pray this day for...*

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

**January 24 - February 6, 2003**

*"To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives. The closer we come to the heartbeat of God the more we see our need and the more we desire to be conformed to Christ."*

*Richard Foster in Celebration of Discipline*

For: (1) Baptist Men's Day (MM Emphasis); (2) Please remember a couple, A. and Z. in Bosnia. The wife, A., would like to study the Bible, but her husband will not allow it. Ask that the heart of Z. would be softened and that he would desire to study the Bible as well.

Due to various circumstances, areas of northern Pakistan that have not been previously accessible are opening up for witnessing opportunities. Pray that these doors will remain open for the gospel to be shared in the cities, villages, mountains and valleys. Ask God to give Christian agencies and personnel the wisdom to utilize His resources effectively and economically.

For: (1) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives Dinner, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, 4:45-6:30 p.m. (P/LD); (2) State Evangelism Conference, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, 1:30 p.m., 27th - 4 p.m., 28th (even); (3) State Evangelism Conference - Women's Track, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, 1:30, 27th - 4 p.m., 28th (WML)

Rick Shepherd is director of prayer and spiritual awakening with the Florida Baptist Convention. Pray for him to have wisdom in equipping and encouraging personal and church prayer ministries, and for writing prayer materials.

Pray for salvation for two Bosnian women, M. and A. Serb Team members met these ladies at the hospital in Houston, Texas, as one team member was having surgery. The women were so happy to meet someone who could speak their language! Pray that they will read the Serbian Bibles given to them and that they can be connected with a church in Houston.

Recently there have been demonstrations in Istanbul, Turkey, against America and the possible war in Iraq. If there is war, Turkey will likely be an important staging ground for the military action. Pray for peace in Istanbul and safety for the believers and churches in Istanbul.

Pray for 25 student missionaries from the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary who are serving throughout Liberia from Jan. 7 through Feb. 15. They will be serving in various ministries, including evangelism, church planting, church development, prison ministry, HIV/AIDS awareness, and ministry among the thousands of internally displaced persons who are currently living in the Monrovia area.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th; (2) Michael Dennis is team leader for the southwest Missouri ministry resource team. Maryetta, his wife, is literacy missions coordinator for Missouri Baptists. Pray that churches will be started and existing churches strengthened to meet the needs of the region.

For: (1) Church Business Administration Conference; FBC, Madison; 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Several missionaries in Eastern Africa are experiencing illness, family problems, and personal problems. Please pray for God to give them a hedge of protection from the evil one.

For: (1) Church Music Conference; West Heights BC, Pontotoc; noon, 6th - noon, 7th (CM); (2) MBREA Convention; FBC, Biloxi; (3) Pray for Thailand Christian leaders as they develop plans to strategically reach Bangkok for Christ. Pray that they will be able to develop creative evangelistic approaches and effective follow-up methods.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals; FBC, Biloxi; Hernando BC, Hernando; Crosegates BC, Brandon, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (CM); (2) State BSU Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 6 p.m., 24th - 2 p.m., 25th (CLG); (3) Pray today for President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan (eastern Asia coast).

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; Emmanuel BC, Grenada; North Greenwood BC, Greenwood, 9:30 a.m. - noon (CM); (2) Many people in Chengdu, China, await the opportunity to follow Jesus' example of baptism. Ask God to provide safe places indoors to be baptized.

For: (1) Church Business Administration Conference, West Ellisville BC, Ellisville, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Pray for the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe. Some hardships among the people there are bringing numbers of them into God's Kingdom.

For: (1) True Love Waits (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Bill Barker of Scott Depot, W. Va., is director of Appalachian Regional Ministry. Pray for the 2003 focus on Pittsburgh, Penn., the largest unreached section of Appalachia. Also pray for the work taking place this winter with bi-vocational pastors.



**January 30**  
First Baptist Church  
Madison

**January 31**  
West Ellisville  
Baptist Church  
Ellisville

**Church Business  
Administration Conference**

*Making Our Church  
a Safer Place*

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development  
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

**VBS Jumpstart VBS Jumpstart**

For all  
• Pastors  
• VBS directors  
• VBS leaders  
to track down the 2003 theme,  
"The Great Kingdom Caper,  
Cracking the Character Code"  
(Colossians 3:12-14)



**VBS Jumpstart VBS Jumpstart**

Take your church on a Great Kingdom Caper for VBS 2003! Becky Martin from LifeWay will be here to lead us through a twisting maze of clues that will help crack the code of a lifetime and learn how to live with Christian character.

The VBS Kingdom Caper sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from LifeWay Christian Stores.

February 11, 2003, 9 a.m. - noon  
Alta Woods Baptist Church  
168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS

February 10, 2003, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
First Baptist Church  
506 Jeff Davis Avenue, Long Beach, MS

February 11, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Trinity Baptist Church  
7200 Swinnea Road, Southaven, MS

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department.  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3294



ADAMS	PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
CALVARY	2,888.36	5,213.34	8,101.70
CLIFF TEMPLE	18,241.22	9,201.73	27,442.95
CRAINFIELD	1,472.72	2,040.89	3,513.61
FBC HATCH	99,322.93	99,395.98	198,718.91
NIGHTLAND	23,064.77	12,182.30	35,247.07
PARADISE	8,455.74	8,215.47	16,671.21
MORGANTOWN	26,455.48	23,534.11	49,989.59
NEW HOPE	630.62	420.42	1,051.04
PARWAY	62,469.66	30,041.62	92,511.28
SPRINGFIELD	4,104.80	3,134.20	7,239.00
WILSON	12,515.30	12,855.30	25,370.60
WASHINGTON	13,692.46	9,116.87	22,809.33
TOTAL	283,198.06	215,592.75	498,790.81

TOTAL	337,093.43	261,220.76	610,322.17
*ASSOCIATION	.00	1,205.25	1,205.25
ANTIOCH	1,910.00	1,911.45	3,821.45
BANNER	7,655.82	7,611.51	15,267.33
BENTLEY	.00	505.00	505.00
BETHANY	11,700.00	29,652.61	41,352.61
BIG CREEK	23,286.87	14,026.89	37,313.76
BROADFOUR CHAPEL	5,672.49	8,336.37	14,008.86
BURLEY	1,275.50	3,300.00	4,575.50
COLLEGE HILL	5,067.36	1,714.47	6,782.03
CONCORD	4,415.52	4,328.09	8,743.61
DERMA	20,576.50	9,746.05	30,322.55
DRIVERS FLAT	330.00	837.00	1,167.00
DUNN-AN HILL	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00
ELAND	1,824.22	3,482.55	5,306.77
ELC BRUCE	54,504.00	21,559.36	76,063.36
ELC CALHOUN CITY	57,105.00	43,756.98	100,861.98
ELC CATHYSBORO	9,270.00	6,379.67	15,649.67
ELC CROOKMAN	31,131.01	13,679.79	44,810.80
ELC GRACE'S BAPTIST	1,000.00	2,079.00	3,079.00
ELC LANTIS	2,634.45	1,917.24	4,551.69
ELC MACEDONIA	3,627.89	2,804.20	6,432.09
ELC MIDWAY	1,790.31	1,643.55	3,433.86
ELC MOUNTAIN	5,003.20	1,468.21	6,471.41
ELC MOUNTAIN VIEW	11,350.00	11,130.41	22,519.30
ELC NEW JACOB	1,000.00	300.00	1,300.00
ELC NEW JACOB	1,271.66	1,221.93	2,593.59
ELC NEW LIBERTY	3,245.90	3,245.90	6,491.80
ELC NEW PROVIDENCE	2,120.03	6,554.64	8,674.67
ELC NEW TOWNE	2,046.00	2,046.00	4,092.00
ELC OLD TOWN	7,286.39	7,763.84	15,050.23
ELC PALMER	2,208.41	1,471.80	3,680.21
ELC PILGRIMS REST	337.12	337.13	674.25

FRANKLIN			
BUNLEY	511.57	200.00	711.57
CONCORD	2,271.00	1,040.00	3,311.00
DAMASCUS	4,850.00	2,970.50	7,820.50
EDDICTON	1,552.00	800.00	2,352.00

NEW BEACH	2,100.78	27,170.43	49,840.00
OLIVE	3,445.91	855.47	3,931.00
PASS ROAD	1,200.00	.00	1,200.00
PERKINSON	14,294.94	9,995.37	24,290.31
POPS FERRY	1,000.00	1,000.13	2,000.13
RIVERSIDE	3,447.10	3,073.00	6,520.10
ROBINSON ROAD	.00	4,166.10	4,166.10
ROBINWOOD	5,812.25	2,425.47	8,237.72
SUNSHINE PARK	1,000.00	609.26	1,609.26
TRINITY	750.15	7,185.99	7,936.14
TUXICHENA	1,373.53	350.00	1,723.53
WEST GULFPORT	1,146.26	915.00	2,061.26
WOOLMARKET	26,100.00	18,770.82	44,870.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>932,178.64</b>	<b>607,202.70</b>	<b>1,539,381.34</b>

<b>HOLMES</b>			
ANTIOCH	1,384.69	2,315.51	3,700.20
BEULAH	2,160.25	1,399.32	3,559.57
CALVARY	864.33	1,287.33	2,151.66
CRITCHER	7,216.29	5,390.00	12,606.29
DEWEY	1,220.00	918.00	2,138.00
EMORY	100.00	600.00	700.00
FIC DURANT	30,516.34	10,533.57	41,049.91
FIC LEXINGTON	31,217.31	14,379.85	45,597.16

KEMPER			
BAY SPRINGS	6,872.19	3,992.76	10,801.95
BLACKWATER	1,101.08	1,355.00	3,256.66
BLUE SPRINGS	2,414.00	1,200.00	3,614.00
CENTER RIDGE	7,500.00	6,205.00	13,705.00
CORINTH	1,301.38	273.20	1,574.58
LIBERTY	1,059.60	6,778.00	7,837.60
SALEM	5,340.00	4,325.00	10,665.00
SCOOBIA	1,080.76	340.00	1,420.76
UNION	6,475.00	8,936.93	15,411.93
UNION HILL	2,512.65	3,080.59	5,593.24
VAIDAMMAN	281.00	245.00	526.00
WADSWALK	1,177.38	745.00	1,922.38
WEST KEMPER	1,026.17	1,358.00	2,384.17
TOTAL	50,961.81	60,684.93	111,646.74
LAFAYETTE			
ANCHOR		24,695.80	69,683.33
BAY SPRINGS	44,988.00	1,255.39	1,255.39
CLAYTON	5,004.00	4,542.39	9,546.39
CLAYTON		12,865.00	12,865.00
COLUMBIA CREEK	9,344.39	2,343.50	11,687.89
COURT HILL H'GHTS		2,211.50	4,902.50
DELAY	2,211.50		



	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
HERBERT	450.00	900.00	1,350.00
HIGH HILL	2,555.43	6,962.63	9,518.06
HOPE	1,583.35	3,176.97	4,760.32
LAUREL HILL	3,121.52	1,071.00	4,192.52
LAWSON	10,127.43	4,344.33	14,471.76
LONGINO	1,104.78	2,972.89	4,077.67
MT CARMEL	1,910.00	1,525.00	3,435.00
MT NELSON	598.00	2,328.13	2,926.13
NESHOBA	16,980.67	13,198.56	30,179.23
NEW BETHEL	5,427.85	4,299.60	9,857.45
NEW BLACK JACK	781.10	781.10	1,562.20
NEW HAMARONY	2,658.00	4,871.00	7,529.00
NEW PLEASANTDALE	330.00	770.00	1,100.00
NORTH CALVARY	6,563.32	6,619.28	13,182.60
OAK GROVE	5,945.95	588.79	6,534.74
OLDFAR VALLEY	9,882.18	16,143.18	26,025.36
PINE GROVE	9,984.00	18,096.00	28,080.00
SALEM	2,623.37	2,761.37	5,384.74
SAND HILL	864.47	2,684.47	1,828.94
SPRIDS	1,727.64	2,662.65	4,390.29
SPRING CREEK	15,746.45	12,324.77	27,991.22
TRINITY	3,452.22	10,019.97	13,472.19
WEST PHILADELPHIA	.00	600.00	600.00
WHITE OAK	.00	2,545.77	2,545.77
TOTAL	252,061.98	294,197.28	546,259.26
NEW CHOCTAW			
BOGUE CHITTO	703.09	680.76	1,383.85
CALVARY	.00	40.00	40.00
CANAAN	130.55	924.05	1,054.60
CORINTH	150.00	687.00	837.00
HOPE INDIAN	200.00	.00	200.00
HOPEWELL	25.00	100.00	125.00
MACEDONIA	250.00	400.00	650.00
MT ZION	230.00	3,453.50	3,683.50
PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY	14.44	1,126.00	1,140.44
TOTAL	2,106.18	7,611.31	9,717.49
NEWTON			
BEAT LINE	1,501.50	1,964.37	3,465.87
BETH	1,866.00	2,735.50	4,601.50
BEULAH	10,950.00	13,291.97	24,241.97
CALVARY	12,731.48	9,372.04	22,103.52
CHUNKY	55,621.22	22,011.49	77,632.71
CLARKE VENABLE	23,869.46	36,053.69	59,923.15
CONNEHATTA	9,047.70	5,994.67	15,042.37
COVERLY	1,000.00	1,360.70	2,360.70
CROSS ROADS	817.17	817.17	1,634.34
DUFFEE	2,735.26	350.00	3,085.26
EMMANUEL	5,600.32	2,561.49	8,161.81
FBC NEWTON	108,151.23	47,888.05	156,039.28
GOOD HOPE	1,310.65	350.81	1,661.46
GOOD HOPE	1,139.00	248.00	1,387.00
GRACE UNITED	.00	2,116.40	2,116.40
HAZEL	5,608.39	3,600.00	9,208.39
HICKORY	58,787.89	23,374.82	82,162.70
HOPWELL	3,725.33	3,400.47	7,125.80
LAWRENCE	3,864.76	866.20	4,730.96
LIBERTY	5,258.00	5,300.00	10,558.00
MIDWAY	8,540.00	4,902.00	13,442.00
MT VERNON	11,988.35	7,110.38	19,098.73
NEW IRELAND	3,945.43	2,497.77	6,443.20
PINKNEY	5,191.00	4,668.00	9,859.00
POPLAR	.00	493.50	493.50
POPLAR SPRINGS	1,257.84	5,276.94	6,534.78
ROCK BRANCH	4,415.00	1,665.00	6,080.00
SLIPPER SPRINGS	1,746.45	11,242.69	12,989.14
TOTAL	418,461.94	259,809.62	678,271.56
NORTH CENTRAL			
AIRPORT	1,017.96	2,442.46	3,460.42
BETHEL	4,000.00	6,070.00	10,070.00
BRAZZE	456.78	456.78	913.56
CALVARY CHAPEL	1,636.49	3,236.87	4,873.36
CASSILLA	539.07	9,211.68	9,750.75
CORINTH	2,022.88	2,243.72	4,266.60
COWARD	3,719.00	3,336.78	7,055.78
EMMANUEL	202,652.50	64,588.68	267,241.18
ENON	3,303.19	3,716.77	7,219.96
FAITH	1,045.00	1,891.29	2,936.29
FBC CHARLESTON	27,112.99	17,490.45	44,603.44
FBC GREENADZA	12,422.17	44,462.81	56,884.98
FBC HAZEL	1,000.00	13,825.00	14,825.00
FBC TUTWILER	6,944.19	6,635.04	13,579.23
FRIENDSHIP	27,861.09	19,951.19	47,812.28
FRIENDSHIP EAST	2,886.00	1,887.00	4,773.00
FRIENDSHIP WEST	3,703.73	2,626.67	6,330.40
GRACE SPRINGS	7,888.97	6,512.67	14,401.64
HARDY	7,376.48	12,856.64	20,233.12
HEBRON	17,120.36	9,030.02	26,150.38
HOLCOMB	10,687.32	7,485.08	18,172.40
LEFLORE	2,000.00	1,900.00	3,900.00
MT POKAH	2,288.13	5,295.14	7,583.27
PARKS	1,015.84	595.85	1,611.69
PAUL	576.21	983.22	1,559.43
PAYNES	3,345.35	5,470.24	8,815.59
PHILIP	756.34	4,980.36	5,736.70
PLEASANT GROVE	2,000.00	630.00	2,630.00
PROVIDENCE	2,004.26	2,077.71	4,081.97
SPRING HILL	2,425.00	5,040.00	7,465.00
TEMPLE	1,750.90	1,174.36	2,925.26
WEBB	2,825.31	6,410.77	9,236.08
TOTAL	472,666.30	265,290.36	737,956.66
NORTH DELTA			
*ASSOCIATION	.00	1,315.00	1,315.00
BELDEN	1,528.29	1,101.22	2,629.51
BELLEVILLE	865.49	.00	865.49
BLUE LAKE	1,088.09	1,088.00	2,176.09
CHERRY STREET	945.14	2,636.98	3,582.12
CLARKDALE	37,734.81	39,035.51	76,770.32
CROWLEY	22,278.16	10,512.68	32,790.84
DARLIN	18.00	218.00	236.00
FBC LAMBERT	14,573.96	10,270.84	24,844.80
FBC MARSH	11,828.17	20,261.17	32,089.34
FBC SLEDGE	2,453.27	5,233.00	7,686.27
FBC TUNICA	2,128.84	21,578.66	42,707.50
FBI WOOD	4,011.09	950.00	4,961.09
LULA	1,200.00	4,575.62	5,775.62
LYON	4,179.44	9,366.19	13,545.63
OAKHURST	11,872.63	76,252.72	190,125.40
RENA LAKE	2,115.83	5,262.81	7,378.64
RIVERSIDE	3,748.78	9,857.38	13,606.16
STRANGERS REST	25.00	.00	25.00
UNION CHAPEL	163.00	187.00	350.00
WALNUT	1,935.09	246.00	2,181.09
WEST MARKS	10,991.63	11,598.13	22,589.76
TOTAL	257,770.81	231,246.53	489,017.36
NORTHWEST			
*ASSOCIATION	.00	7,327.00	7,327.00
ARKABUTLA	13,515.66	5,345.15	18,860.81
BETHEL	1,931.58	1,425.00	3,356.58
BETHLEHEM	1,983.33	2,352.33	4,335.66
BOULEVARD	39,381.44	14,220.22	53,601.66
BROADWAY	52,916.85	26,169.07	79,085.92
CARRIAGE HILLS	79,389.57	60,042.82	139,432.39
CLARKDALE	7,875.71	510.00	8,385.71
CENTER HILL	.00	510.00	510.00
CHURCH ROAD	7,619.74	3,284.78	10,904.52
COLONIAL HILLS	45,833.26	13,801.99	59,635.25
CORNERSTONE	2,310.43	89.48	2,400.91
COWARD WOODS	1,020.27	2,586.42	3,606.69
BRENEZER HERNANDO	3,453.35	1,711.81	5,165.16
BRENEZER SENATORIA	3,314.68	1,758.00	7,072.68
EVANSVILLE	14,934.64	5,670.00	20,604.64
FAIRHAVEN	13,941.00	9,700.00	23,641.00
FAITH	5,428.28	1,906.94	7,335.22
FBC COLDWATER	55,714.26	25,980.20	81,694.46
FBC DAYS	10,663.40	3,742.50	14,405.90
FBC EUDORA	9,311.58	7,009.35	16,320.93
FBC HORN LAKE	59,234.81	13,861.86	73,096.67
FBC NESBIT	38,715.77	1,425.00	40,140.77
FBC NORTH BRANCH	24,540.80	23,831.51	48,372.31
FBC SENATORIA	65,759.07	38,334.30	104,093.37
FBC SOUTHAVEN	35,174.82	13,994.05	49,168.87
FLAG LAKE	5,646.84	2,076.09	7,722.93
GRACEWOOD	51,608.99	18,998.18	70,607.17
GRAYS REEK	5,422.99	4,522.99	9,945.98
GREENBROOK	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00
HERNANDO	75,469.59	11,710.50	87,180.09
HICKORY GROVE	3,399.25	4,130.90	7,530.15
HIGHLAND	19,109.00	11,817.76	30,926.76
MANNA LAKE	12,300.00	17,000.00	29,300.00
LAKE FOREST	4,017.76	8,027.52	12,045.28
LONGVIEW HEIGHTS	159,949.10	50,229.92	210,179.02
LOOXAHOMIA	13,943.27	6,544.73	20,488.00
MACEDONIA	2,600.00	.00	2,600.00
MEADOW BROOK	17,000.00	1,616.80	18,616.80
MINERAL WELLS	3,344.82	1,470.06	4,814.88
MT MANNA	5,461.78	1,216.00	6,677.78
MT ZION DESOTO	1,644.98	1,044.64	2,689.62
MT ZION LAKE	39,106.86	21,045.65	60,152.51
NEW HOPE	4,659.63	1,069.00	5,728.63
NEW PROSPECT	10,604.11	3,087.50	13,691.61
NORTH DESOTO COM	1,690.00	175.00	1,865.00
OAK GROVE	21,921.39	9,352.29	31,273.68
OLDFAR VALLEY	11,374.78	1,897.63	13,272.41
SOUTHFOREST	1,432.40	286.52	1,718.92
STRAVON	11,657.49	3,575.63	15,233.12
TRINITY-HERNANDO	1,734.49	.00	1,734.49
TRINITY-SAVEN	160,635.22	69,559.84	230,195.06
TYLER LAKE	3,233.00	1,526.00	4,759.00



COOP PROGRAM			OTHER			TOTAL		
WILDWOOD	0.00	293.50	293.50					
WYATTE	1,173.16	10,480.59	11,653.75					
TOTAL	1,262,651.86	560,599.34	1,823,251.20					
NOXUBEE								
BROOKSVILLE	10,537.07	6,379.50	16,916.57					
CALVARY MACON	1,200.00	405.00	1,605.00					
CONCORD	1,050.00	1,800.00	2,850.00					
DEERBROOK	662.00							
ELON	2,644.60	1,390.00	4,034.60					
FBC MACON	28,528.41	14,333.61	42,862.02					
MASHULAVILLE	1,893.05	2,870.00	4,763.05					
RUHAMMA	0.00	820.00	820.00					
SHILOH LAKE	3,000.00	4,453.00	7,453.00					
VERNON	705.24	600.85	1,306.09					
WEST SIDE	125.00		125.00					
TOTAL	50,345.37	33,226.96	83,572.33					
PANOLA								
CALVARY	45,683.00	13,280.50	58,963.50					
COMO	4,902.11	2,947.35	7,849.46					
COURTLAND	5,608.00	3,597.00	9,205.00					
CRESHAW	6,776.00	3,919.46	10,695.46					
ENID LAKE	2,562.41							
ENON	4,086.00	800.00	4,886.00					
FBC BATESVILLE	143,537.48	30,744.66	174,282.14					
FBC SARDIS	37,965.40	29,288.26	67,253.66					
FIRST FAITH	1,675.13	1,523.52	3,198.65					
GOOD HOPE	8,217.65	6,860.00	15,077.65					
HEBRON	6,005.90	1,710.44	7,716.34					
IMMANUEL	3,244.75	2,603.00	5,847.75					
LIBERTY HILL	10,521.00	3,579.13	14,100.13					
LOCKE STATION	7,636.75	8,803.61	16,440.36					
MCIVOR	788.81							
NORTH BATESVILLE	1,666.93	777.00	2,443.93					
PEACH CREEK	4,409.36	6,371.00	10,780.36					
PHARSALIA	869.17	810.00	1,679.17					
PILGRIMS REST	4,536.00	1,612.00	6,148.00					
POPE	12,793.00	4,525.05	17,318.05					
ROSE HILL	121.21	177.18	298.39					
SARDIS LAKE	10,890.26	2,209.52	13,099.78					
SHADY GROVE	4,400.00	4,878.47	9,278.47					
TUCOWA	2,864.27	1,132.50	3,996.77					
UNION	3,976.70	2,367.00	6,343.70					
WEST BATESVILLE	1,000.00		1,000.00					
TOTAL	336,477.29	145,982.73	482,460.02					
PEARL RIVER								
ASSOCIATION	0.00	130.00	130.00					
BETHLEHEM	17,610.94	9,006.24	26,617.18					
CALVARY	14,147.86	11,378.09	25,525.95					
CONCORD	2,247.56		2,247.56					
CRANE CREEK	12,464.09	5,975.20	18,439.29					
DERBY	4,232.75	5,238.58	9,471.33					
EMMANUEL	350.00		350.00					
FATH MEMORIAL	465.00	1,351.88	1,816.88					
FBC CARRIERS	2,356.41	1,783.41	4,139.82					
FBC NICHOLSON	3,000.00	1,476.00	4,476.00					
FBC OZONA	2,059.91	3,290.92	5,350.83					
FBC PLYMOUTH	158,831.74	86,844.95	245,676.69					
FBC ROCKY HILL	49,130.33	49,793.73	98,924.06					
FBC TOP OF THE HILL	1,973.60	1,973.60	3,947.20					
FORDS CREEK	4,665.00	3,642.50	8,307.50					
GOOD YEAR	18,561.66	13,393.88	31,955.54					
GRACE MEMORIAL	155.64	630.00	785.64					
GUM POND	4,618.16	3,693.51	8,311.67					
HARMONY	5,322.04	2,010.00	7,332.04					
HILL CREST	3,159.74	3,821.30	6,981.04					
JUNIPER GROVE	13,626.13	14,100.95	27,727.08					
NEW HENLEYFIELD	3,601.34	2,802.74	6,404.08					
NEW PALESTINE	17,640.29	11,957.49	29,597.78					
OAK HILL	7,474.74	7,723.74	15,198.48					
OLIVE	9,594.00	7,736.00	17,330.00					
PARKVIEW	2,456.18	4,129.03	6,585.21					
PINE GROVE	32,100.00	18,774.00	50,874.00					
ROLLING HILLS	1,221.37	2,992.02	4,213.39					
ROSELAND PARK	61,837.00	36,065.00	97,902.00					
SPRING HILL	4,440.80	967.65	5,408.45					
STEEPLE HOLLOW	24,096.66	27,752.61	51,849.27					
UNION	43,802.31	33,373.30	77,175.61					
UNION	10,681.24	9,308.13	19,989.37					
WEST POPLARVILLE	12,600.00	358.00	12,958.00					
WHITE SAND	1,904.87	3,542.23	5,447.10					
TOTAL	558,969.57	393,762.76	952,732.33					
PERRY								
ARLINGTON	3,340.64	0.00	3,340.64					
BREWSTER	4,747.00	2,785.00	7,532.00					
BUCK CREEK	1,947.02	625.22	2,572.24					
CALVARY	941.48	121.80	1,063.28					
EASTSIDE	800.00		800.00					
FBC BEAUMONT	6,012.44	2,448.02	8,460.46					
FBC NEW AUGUSTA	6,068.00	6,678.64	12,746.64					
FBC RICHMOND	64,938.00	29,228.95	94,166.95					
FBC RICHMOND	16,352.58	8,378.60	24,731.18					
GOOD HOPE	3,386.00	8,799.00	12,177.00					
INDIAN SPRINGS	7,985.89	9,221.87	17,207.76					
JANICE	1,950.00	2,857.93	4,807.93					
LOOP ROAD	1,950.96	2,008.79	3,959.75					
MEMORIAL	2,926.18		2,926.18					
PROSPECT	1,310.00	1,019.00	2,329.00					
SEMINARY	1,840.39	4,181.57	6,021.96					
THOMPSON HILL	1,667.98	2,510.22	4,178.20					
UNION	114.58	612.00	726.58					
TOTAL	128,498.54	81,468.61	209,967.15					
PIKE								
BALA CHITTO	4,163.72	2,343.00	6,506.72					
BLUFF SPRINGS	3,668.90	3,170.35	6,839.25					
BOGUE CHITTO	10,640.50	2,613.50	13,254.00					
CALVARY	15,765.88	3,727.27	19,493.15					
CENTRAL	45,571.23	21,857.74	67,428.97					
EAST MCCOMB	32,039.08	6,874.85	38,913.93					
EAST UNION	3,300.00	1,437.25	4,737.25					
FBC MAGNOLIA	49,682.44	13,105.00	62,787.44					
FBC MCCOMB	133,670.68	60,718.32	194,389.00					
FBC SUMMIT	121,451.91	34,762.62	156,214.53					
FELLOWSHIP	4,319.55	924.80	5,244.35					
FERNWOOD	3,300.00	5,024.00	8,324.00					
FRIENDSHIP	18,019.61	11,901.24	29,920.85					
HOLMESVILLE	4,164.81	984.00	5,148.81					
IMMANUEL								



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

The WMU of Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton, recently assembled sun catchers to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They sold them at Flea Markets and to individuals in the community, raising over \$140 in offering.



Mt. Pisgah Church WMU, Carrollton

The children of Hebron Church, Smithdale, helped wrap 58 shoe boxes for the Samaritanis Purse Christmas Box mission project. Pictured (from left, front) are Abbi Holmes, Marlee Touchstone, Darren Mercier, (back) Erica, Danielle, and Courtney Touchstone, Lauren Westbrook, Hannah Holmes, and Roman Mercier.



Harmontown Church, Oxford Children's Choir

Gold City will be in concert at Zion Hill Church, Wesson, on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. They are available at Copiah Bank, Wesson;

Trustmark National Bank, Wesson; Bertha's Florist, Brookhaven; and Zion Hill Church by calling (601) 643-6145.

Goss Church, Columbia, will have a Super Sunday on Jan. 26. This will be Baptist Men's Day and High Attendance Day with a goal of 160. Tom Lester will be speaking at the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mark McArthur is pastor.



Children of Hebron Church, Smithdale

The youth of Harmontown Church, Como, prepared a float for the Oxford Christmas Parade on Dec. 2. The Children's Choir presented the musical A Merry Christmas before on Dec. 22 followed by a Candlelight Service led by Jimmy Sparks.



Harmontown Church, Oxford Candlelight Service

Covington/Jefferson Davis Association will host a Worldshakers Youth Rally Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. at Williamsburg.



Harmontown Church Oxford, Christmas Float

### MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS: Thank you for 10 years of involvement in Mississippi River Ministry.

There have been more than 10,000 professions of faith through Mississippi River Ministry in the last decade.

Mississippi River Ministry is a partnership of the area's seven state conventions, the North American Mission Board, and Women's Missionary Union. Mississippi River Ministry is caring about people. It is meeting needs and sharing Christ.

If you would like information about Mississippi River Ministry, contact Ken West, Washington Baptist Association, P.O. Box 4511, Greenville, MS 38704; (662) 335-2662.

First Church, Columbia, will hold the annual women's conference, One Women's Journey, on Feb. 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Feb. 8 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Patricia Lum, Clinton, will be speaking. Saturday morning registration will be 8-8:45 a.m. Tickets are \$20 for pre-registration and \$25 at the door. For more information, call (601) 736-2608.

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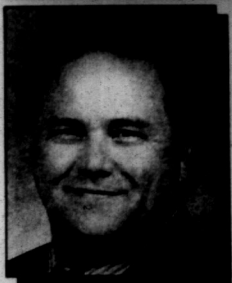
#### Agents needed:

For complete details on all plans including limitations and exclusions call today.  
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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

### STATE CHANGES



Martin

Oral Church, Hattiesburg, called **Johnny Martin**, Greenville, as pastor on Jan. 1. He has served as interim pastor since June 2002. Martin is currently attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

First Church, Mathiston, has called **David Patterson** as Minister of Students and **David McGehee** as Minister of Music.

The Children's Choir of **Goss Church, Columbia**, presented a musical, *Meet Me at the Manger*, on Dec. 15. Pictured are the participants. Mark McArthur is pastor.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, ordained **Jimmy Downs**, **Bille G. Ishee**, and **David W. Tolbert** as deacons on Nov. 10. Pictured (from left) are Ishee, Tolbert, Downs, James Balliet, pastor, Charles Tolbert, and Lewis Parker.

**Eddie King** has retired from pastoral ministry after serving 57 years in 12 churches throughout five states. He retired from Fayette Church, Fayette, where he served for the past 15 years. The church



Deacons of Park Haven Church, Laurel

honored King and his wife with a covered dish dinner and a \$1,000 check on Dec. 29. They

will retire in the Summit area.

Myrick Simpsom for 25 years as the pianist on Jan. 5.

First Church, Kosciusko, honored **Faye C. Wiggers** on Jan. 12 on her 20th anniversary as minister of music. A reception followed the evening service of tribute to her. First Church honored **Miriam**

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, ordained **Corey Huber** as a deacon on Jan. 5.



Goss Church, Columbia, Children's Choir

## MID-SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE



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Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, TN  
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### Experience Higher Education with a Higher Purpose at the Baptist College of Health Sciences

The Baptist College of Health Sciences is hosting campus visitation days for students interested in earning a bachelor's degree in a health care field. The College offers majors in nursing, respiratory care, health care management, medical sonography, medical radiography, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine, as well as completion degrees for licensed or registered nurses and respiratory therapists. If you would like to reserve a space at one of the following campus visitation days, call (901) 575-BCHS, or call toll-free at (866) 575-BCHS, or visit us on-line at [www.bchs.edu](http://www.bchs.edu).

**Thursday, Jan. 30 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Feb. 22 10 a.m.**  
**Thursday, Mar. 6 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Mar. 29 10 a.m.**

 **BAPTIST.**  
College of Health Sciences



# BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

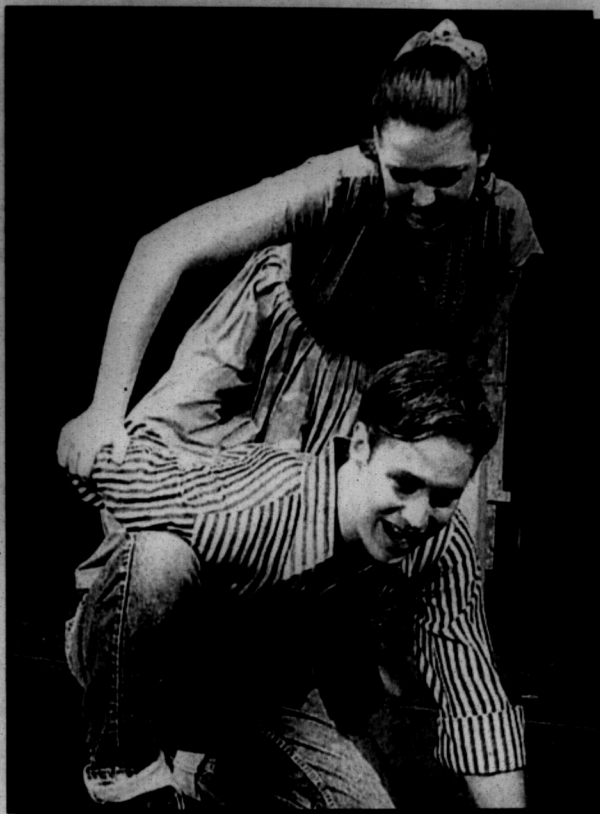
**William Carey College, Hattiesburg**, will present .out by the rabbit cage at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30-Feb. 1. These are encore performances of the production entered in the Mississippi Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in October. For more information or reservations call (601) 318-6221. The box office will be open daily from 1-4 p.m. beginning Jan. 27. Pictured are Kristen Miller and Clint Thompson in a scene from .out by the rabbit cage.

The **Quitman Certificate Center, Clarke Association**, affiliated with the New Orleans Seminary, will offer undergraduate classes beginning Jan. 21. The Certificate Program offered is Pastoral Ministry with two classes for this semester. Discipling Church Members will be taught by Robert Sanders and New Testament Bible Course (Revelation) will be taught by Jim Smith. Those interested should call (601) 776-6050 or (601) 776-5966. Registration is accepted through Jan. 28.



**Johnnie Armstrong**

**Johnnie Armstrong**, Blue Mountain College, recently received the 2002 Pride in



**Kristen Miller and Clint Thompson**

Teaching Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. The award was presented in December during the 69th annual State MAHPERD Convention in Hattiesburg.

The **Mississippi College Career Services Center, Clinton**, announces its annual Career Day, which will be held on Feb. 11 in A.E. Wood Coliseum from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. All Mississippi College students and alumni are invited to attend. Please visit the Career Services Center web site at <http://www.mc.edu/career> for information on which businesses and organizations will be participating and view tips on preparing for the day. Representatives of businesses and companies may visit the Employer Section of the web site where they can register

on-line to attend Career Day 2003. For more information, contact (601) 925-3901 or [nyberg@mc.edu](mailto:nyberg@mc.edu).

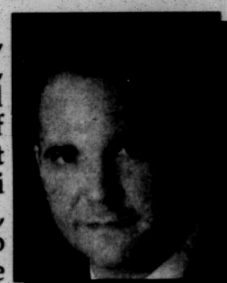
**Thorne Butler, Jackson**, has been named Director of Development at the Mississippi College School of Law. He comes from the Foundation for Public Broadcasting. Last year they raised \$1.7 million in statewide support from individuals, foundation and corporations for ETV and Public Radio in Mississippi.

**Willie Greer, Jr., Meridian**, has been named Director of Development at Mississippi College, Clinton. Prior to accepting the position at MC,

he was owner/manager of Greer Financial Group in Meridian which involved



**Butler**



**Greer**

marketing securities and insurance products.

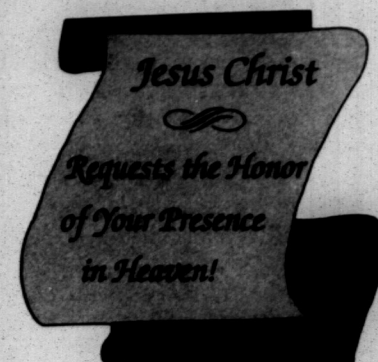
**William Carey College** invites all Winters School of Music alumni to attend a reunion and concert Jan. 24 and 25. The Music Reunion will be Jan. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Southern Oaks. The reunion concert will be held Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium, Hattiesburg. For more information call (601) 318-6107.

Former Miss Mississippi 1983, **Wanda Geddie Brickner**, currently a model with Ford Modeling Agency, will perform at the Miss Carey Pageant during Homecoming ceremonies Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. on the campus of William Carey College, Hattiesburg. Brickner will also speak at a women's luncheon at 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 24. For more information, call (601) 318-6107.



**Brickner**

**Vivian Ann Amato, Toomsba**, received a degree in Church Music on Dec. 21 at New Orleans Seminary. Amato, minister of music at Salem Church, Toomsba, is the daughter of the late Dillon and Andy Amato.



**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
  2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
  3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
  4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*



If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Ogilvie cancels MC evangelism lectures

The Evangelism Lectures at Mississippi College in Clinton, scheduled for February 17-18 with Lloyd James Ogilvie, have been canceled. Ogilvie's wife is critically ill in a Los Angeles hospital, and he has resigned as Chaplain for the United States Senate in order to spend time with his wife. Ogilvie has notified the MC department of Christian studies that he will reschedule the commitment to come to MC and participate in the Evangelism Lectures when his circumstances change.

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**A BRAND NEW KING** Orthopedic mattress set. New in plastic, only \$189. Call (601) 209-0872.

MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI

BAPTISTS

**POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH:** Seeking a Christian student to be Youth Director. Must be committed to children and Youth. Part-time position. Main focus is Bible study Wednesdays and activities for the group. Please contact Rene Virden, Youth Committee Chairperson (601) 362-2152 or mail resume: Pocahontas Baptist Church, Attention: Rene Virden, 4200 Kickapoo Road, Jackson, MS 39209.

**DANIEL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH,** is seeking a committed mature Christian for the position of church secretary. The position requires good computer skills, graphics and skills in working with the public as well as the church congregation. The church is located in south Jackson. If interested in more information, call pastor Steve Potts at (601) 376-4100.



# Praise, criticism offered for IMB workers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — After the Dec. 30 killings of three Southern Baptist medical workers by a Muslim gunman in Yemen, the tributes and condolences poured in from around the world. Hundreds of calls, letters and e-mails came from friends of the victims, churches, Christian and Muslim religious leaders — and regular people — moved by the lives and deaths of physician Martha Myers, hospital administrator William Koehn, and purchasing manager Kathleen Gariety. Pharmacist Don Caswell was seriously injured in the shooting but is recovering. A tiny sampling of the reactions:

• "This was not only a loss to the Baptist community but also to the Muslim community," said Muhammad Sahli of the Islamic Center of Virginia, who personally visited International Mission

Board leaders to express his sympathy. "We were extremely saddened and angered by what happened in Yemen. ...It is our profound hope that Almighty God will shower the families with His mercy and compassion during their bereavement."

• "My husband Bob and I were privileged to be (at the Jibla hospital) as volunteers in 1988 and 1989," reflected Nancy Dillard. "We grew to love Martha in a very special way. I remember her with some cold pancakes in her skirt pocket (to eat on the run), because once Martha started working for the day she never stopped. I remember her sleeping on the floor on a mat under the crib of a very sick child. I feel so blessed to have known her and I know she, Bill and Kathleen are in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ."

• "As a former short-term mission volunteer in Kosovo immediately after the war there, I am renewing my commitment to return there whenever the Lord allows," vowed Michael Elsey. "My prayers are with you, and I will ask my church to pray for your families, the families of those ministered to in Yemen — and those who killed your loved one."

Not everyone was so sympathetic: "You Christian missionaries are nuts!" said one irate message. "You go to Moslem countries and get kid-

napped, shot and killed by people who don't want you (there), and then cry the blues that you are being persecuted! Get out of their countries and this won't happen!"

A somewhat calmer correspondent criticized American missionary presence anywhere abroad: "The question that immediately comes to mind is 'why?' he asked. "Not why did the murderer shoot these people, but why were the missionaries there in the first place? Are there not enough sick, ailing and unwell people in the United States who cannot care for

themselves or afford medical treatment?... There is a critical shortage of doctors and nurses in this country, yet three medical professionals' lives have been forfeited for no good reason."

On the day of the killings, someone sent Avery Willis, IMB chief of overseas operations, a plea to "bring the missionaries home" once and for all. Willis sent a prompt response.

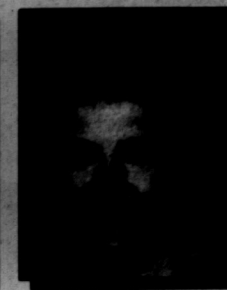
"Instead of asking us to bring them home, why not pray that more will go?" Willis responded. "We will not bring them home, but we will send thousands more."



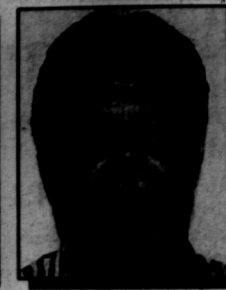
Koehn



Myers



Gariety



Caswell



SITE OF TRAGEDY — The Jibla Baptist Hospital, situated in the mountains of southwest Yemen, was the site where a lone gunman killed three Southern Baptist workers and wounded a fourth worker on Dec. 30. (BP photo)



SEEKING SOLACE — Employees and patrons gathered outside the Baptist Hospital in Jibla mourn the loss of their three co-workers and friends December 30 when a gunman killed three Southern Baptist workers and wounded a fourth worker at the hospital. (BP photo)

## AB: help available for senior's prescription costs

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention would like for seniors to know that for those who believe they cannot afford the high cost of their prescription medicines, drug companies like Merck, Pfizer, and Eli Lilly have implemented patient assistance programs to make their drugs affordable for seniors and disabled persons on Medicare.

"While the Annuity Board offers two Medicare supplement plans that include prescription drug benefits, we realize that the costs of any medical plan can be prohibitive to many seniors on fixed incomes," said Doug Day, executive officer of benefit services at the Annuity Board.

"We are very concerned about those senior adults who can't afford the prescription drugs they need. As an advocate for those seniors, we are spreading the word that help

is out there for those who need it," Day said.

To qualify for most programs, seniors or disabled persons must be enrolled in Medicare, have no prescription drug coverage, and meet annual income restrictions, typically \$18,000 for singles or \$24,000 for a couple. [Some programs allow a higher annual income.]

Through its patient assistance program, Merck has provided people with access to needed medicines for nearly 50 years. In 2001, the program provided over 2.5 million prescriptions free of charge to over 350,000 patients. Pfizer and Eli Lilly make any of their drugs available to eligible persons for only \$15 and \$12 respectively for a one month prescription.

Since most of the programs are sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, a patient must first identify the manufacturer of his or her medication, then contact the company for an application. If a per-

son takes multiple drugs manufactured by different companies, it may be necessary to enroll in more than one program.

There are some helpful websites that can assist a senior adult trying to locate patient assistance programs for their specific prescription drugs and then get an application for the program. Medicare's consumer information Web site, [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), offers information on these programs and a comparison of several.

The National Council on Aging also offers a Web site, [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org), that helps seniors identify programs that may pay for some of the costs of their prescription drugs and may also help pay for healthcare, utilities, and other essential service items.

At [www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org), seniors can look up a specific drug by name or select a pharmaceutical company to find a list of the drugs available through the com-

pany's program. For a \$5 processing fee per drug application, The Medicine Program will assist a person in enrolling in the appropriate programs. For information and an application, call (573) 996-7300 or visit their Web site at [www.themedicineprogram.com](http://www.themedicineprogram.com).

In addition to the programs sponsored by individual pharmaceutical companies, disabled or senior veterans may be eligible for a discount prescription drug program through the Veterans Administration. Call (877) 222-8387 for information.

Enrollment in most patient assistance programs is free but the process for getting enrolled can be confusing. Seniors may need to enlist the help of a friend or family member, or even an online service to get enrolled in the appropriate programs. While patient assistance programs are not the final solution to providing adequate coverage for prescriptions, they do offer some financial relief to seniors.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### The Promise of Heaven

John 14:1-4; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5

By Shirley Stough

We dream of a place beyond conflict, suffering, and death. Those dreams become eager desire when we are experiencing a painful time of crisis or living in a world conflicting with our values and peace. Out of those frustrations, people have sought an ideal society. Those who have tried to construct such a society have failed. Human hands are not sufficient for the task, but God's hands are. He has already prepared a perfect place for those who have accepted Jesus as Savior - Heaven. As Christians, we have confident hope of and live in eager expectation of abiding with Jesus in this heavenly abode.

Scripture gives us a limited

view of Heaven, a view that will not answer all of our questions but one that will satisfy us as to its existence.

John gives us such a view in John 14 and Revelation 21-22.

John 14 establishes the fact that heaven is a real place, not an abstraction, an idea, or just wishful thinking. John 13-14 depicts a sad, confusing time for the disciples. Jesus has already told them that He is going to leave them, that one of them will betray Him, and that another will deny Him. His words have bewildered them. Jesus' words in chapter 14 are meant to relieve some of the sadness and to give them hope of being with Jesus permanently in a much better place. He commands them not to be troubled because His reason for leaving is



Stough

to prepare this real place for them, and in His time He will come and take them to it. He knows that they believe in God and tells them they can put the same faith in Him. He assures them that there is ample room in God's house where Jesus will prepare a place for them. He tells them that they

already know the way. Of course, He is referring to His salvation role - His death, burial and resurrection - that will allow them to be redeemed, making them ready for the home He is preparing for them.

In a vision God gave John a view of heaven and inspired John to write a description of heaven in Revelation 21-22. What John saw was the restoration of the lost paradise of Genesis 3. This restored paradise was heaven, a totally new place; the old earth had passed away. All of the negative aspects of this earth do not beset a perfectly righteous place. Heaven will have no sea, a

place of danger, unrest, and separation to the Israelites. In heaven, no one will be separated from loved ones or from God. In the vision John saw heaven adorned like a bride. Splendidly arrayed, the bride represents the church, a body of Christians. Christ has washed away their sins, making them fit to be received in heaven at a special feast with Jesus. This marriage is a metaphorical depiction of the intimate relationship we will have with Christ in our heavenly home.

John heard the voice of God in this heavenly vision. The voice expressed a continuation of the intimate relationship between God and His people. As their God, their caring and loving protector, God will remove all pain and suffering. He will be the comforter. No longer will there be tears of mothers whose children have died or moans of those suffering the pain of disease. In heaven, life will be continuous because Christ has defeated death. All the negatives of

earth have passed away and all has been made new. Believers from all nations will be together enjoying plentiful food, water, and perfect health. Heaven will be a place where one praises and serves God and reigns with Him forever. There will be no separation between Christian and God.

These lines of an old song express the hope of Christians:

My heavenly home is bright and fair, And I want to be traveling on.

No harm or death can enter there, And I want to be traveling on.

When one becomes a Christian, the concept of a heavenly home becomes a part of his being. Heaven, not earth, is the home of the Redeemed. What a joy it will be to live in the eternal presence of Almighty God! Imagine it! Anticipate it!

Stough is member of First Church, Picayune.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### "Purposeful Prayer"

John 17:1-5, 9-11, 20-24

By Don Wilson

The prayer Jesus gave to His disciples in Matthew 6 is often called "The Model Prayer" or "The Lord's Prayer." However, the prayer here reveals much more about the character of Jesus. As Jesus came to the final hours of His life, He turned to His Father in revealing, unique prayer. The prayer is actually a revelation of both the nature of Jesus and His Father. It reveals the way that God gives, Jesus' desire to protect those who followed Him, and the plan of God to bring about unity and oneness among them.

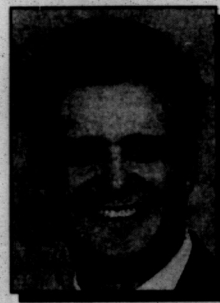
I. THE GLORY OF HIS GIFTS (John 17:1-5)

Jesus appealed to His Father to "glorify Your Son that He may glorify You" (verse 1). His great desire was that God be glorified. Everything He had

done to this point had been for that purpose.

Yet the focus of the prayer centers on gifts rather than glory. Because of what God the Father had given and what God the Son was giving, glory was directed to God.

Consider these gifts given to Jesus by God. First, the Father had given authority to Jesus over all flesh (verse 2). Nothing in all the earth was not subject to that authority. All flesh had not yet submitted to Him, but one day "every knee shall bow ...and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). Second, God gave Jesus those who followed Him. Throughout this prayer Jesus referred to those who God had given Him (verses 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24). Jesus considered them to be precious gifts from God. They were given that He might give them life, protect



Wilson

them, and make them One. A third gift from the Father was a mission to accomplish. Jesus told God that He had finished the work God had given Him to do (verse 4). Fourth, the Father gave Jesus all things and those who became His disciples knew the source of those things (verse 7). Finally, God gave Jesus words to speak (verse 8). Earlier in the book Jesus had informed His followers that His words were not His own, but everything He said was what He had heard from the Father.

As you have read through these first few verses of John 17, you have probably noticed that Jesus the Son was not only receiving gifts from the Father, but was also involved in giving them to those who followed Him. The reason He had received authority was in order that He might give eternal life. We most often think of that life as being unlimited in regard to time. But the definition of eternal life given in John 17:3 is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ. Eternal life is a relationship that results in a life

that never ends. Jesus also gave to those who were given to Him the very words that had been given to Him by God (verse 8).

II. THE KEEPING OF HIS GIFTS (John 17:9-11)

The focus of Jesus' prayer for His disciples (the gifts given to Him by the Father) was that the Father would keep them through His name (verse 11). Several truths need to be noted from these verses. The followers of Jesus were given to Him by God and, therefore, actually belonged to Him (the Father). Those who belong to Jesus will glorify Jesus in their lives (verse 10). They must live in the world and need to be kept. God had the ability to keep them in unity (verse 11), to keep the joy of Jesus prominent in them (verse 13), and to keep them from the evil one (verse 15). As those followers of Jesus in that day needed to be kept, so do modern disciples. Our tendencies toward disunity, despair, and the seduction of Satan make it necessary for God to keep us, too.

III. THE UNITY OF HIS GIFTS (John 17:20-24)

Finally, the prayer of Jesus turned toward unity. Twice in verse 21, He prayed: "that they may be one." Again in verse 23, His prayer was: "I in them, You in Me, that they may be perfect in One." As the Father lived in the Son and the Son was in the Father, so Jesus in believers and the Father in Him was the key to their Oneness. When these followers took their eyes off the Father and the Son, their personal opinions and feelings would always be prominent. When He was prominent, the entire bunch of followers could "be perfect in One."

One final gift needs to be mentioned because it is the key to unity. "I have given them the glory You gave Me that they may be one just as we are one" (verse 22). The Father gave the Son the glory that He, in turn, gave to His followers. That glory alone can bring unity in the midst of great diversity. My prayer is that we all might know His glory that we might know His Unity.

Wilson is pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typed or (b) handwritten on one side of the paper.



All photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be received within one week of publication.

All news items are subject to editing, and



# Seminary presidents proud of students

Part two of a two-part series

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — A renewal of "missionary zeal" among seminary students, unprecedented strength in professors' credentials, and an unparalleled growth in the number of women's programs and women students were noted by the presidents of the six Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminaries in an exclusive interview with Florida Baptist Witness.

There are currently about 14,000 students enrolled in SBC seminaries. If the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is to grow and remain a vital denomination, however, the presidents said they will need greater financial support for their professors and students, and a greater partnership with the churches of the convention for those who are "called" to pursue theological education in preparation for ministry.

Each of the presidents, in Jacksonville for the Council of Seminary Presidents (CSP) annual work meeting in November, spoke about the state of the SBC seminaries both collectively and individually in a wide-ranging, hour-long interview.

The presidents are: William O. Crews, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Phil Roberts, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Chuck Kelley, New Orleans Seminary; Paige Patterson, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Kenneth S. Hemphill, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Citing an increase of more than a thousand students in a five-year period at New Orleans, Kelley said it is "a good indication... customers are buying the product."

Kelley noted the 2+2 program in which students study two years on campus and two years on the mission field, an increased interest in church planting and a "sense of excitement."

"This is a chapter in the story of Southern Baptist seminaries when there is, I think, an unprecedented flowering of missionary zeal on all our campuses," Kelley said.

A generation ago, he said the "best and brightest" came to

seminary to secure a position at "a red brick church in a county seat town until the pulpit came open at First Baptist Church, Dallas, or Bellevue," two of the most prominent SBC churches.

Now "our best and brightest are coming to start churches in

Hemphill said he addresses this change at graduation ceremonies each year when he makes sure to present the Gospel at the request of students who have said they have parents and grandparents in the audience who are not Christians.

## Golden Gate BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

places that don't have a church, and the most popular mission trips are to the most dangerous places," Kelley said.

"There's just a generation of students showing up on our campuses who have a tremendous zeal to spread the gospel across the world and to pay whatever price has to be paid to make Jesus known," he said.

Crews agreed. "Absolutely. You know our people, many of them feel like even living in seminary housing, as bad as it is — they are probably living better today than they will the rest of their lives."

"They want to go to the hard places. It's amazing."

Hemphill pointed to a phenomenon at Southwestern he said could be repeated on any of the campuses. During a recent missions emphasis week, Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC International Mission Board, in chapel gave an invitation for students to respond to a call to missions.

After only 30-40 students came to the altar, Hemphill said Rankin looked a little disappointed before finally asking: "Would those of you who have already made these commitments join us at the altar?" [Rankin] just started weeping because they couldn't get to the altar," said Hemphill of 540 who had already made a missionary commitment.

"There's no question that this generation has a passion and a vision to reach the world. They really do want to go to the hard places. That's the heart desire of a lot of our students," he said.

Kelley said the "single biggest change" he's seen in seminary students is an awareness of the need to start churches in order to reach the nation and the world. About today's students, Kelley also said many come from non-Baptist backgrounds and were most likely saved in college or as young adults.

Consequently, a lot of "first-generation Christians" go to seminary, Hemphill said. "We certainly still have some of those folks who have come up through the system, and we thank God for them," but the seminaries also have those who "were saved in college and they're committed to go to the ends of the world..."

"This could be the generation that fulfills the Great Commission."

Within the context of students who are from non-Baptist backgrounds, Kelley also said this has implications for denominational life and work.

"They don't have a strong sense of Baptist identity," Kelley said.

"[Seminary] is where students learn, this is what it means to be a Southern Baptist and carry that sense of denominational identity for the rest of the years of their ministry."

This may be through the local church, association, mission board, or in other ministries. Courses offered at the seminaries related to Baptist history, doctrine, and polity are developed with this new demographic in mind, said Hemphill of the role of the seminaries in denominationalizing its students.

"We're all structuring our institutions so that [students] clearly understand how Baptists function as well as what Baptists believe."

In addition, Roberts said the courses, whether in theology or church history, are taught by "hopefully a good churchman who is faithful to [the] denomination."

About the age of students, Crews said his student body is younger in some cases and older in others than in the past, but more diverse than ever before at the main California campus where nearly half are non-Anglo.

A determination of demographics "may be institution-specific," Mohler said, commenting instead on the students' cultural context.

"This generation is stripped of the illusions of cultural Christianity that previous generations may have known," he said. "They have grown up in post-Christian secular America. They have been in institutions steeped in postmodernist philosophies. They have grown up in a culture of moral relativism."

"They were not led by their peers to come to the seminary. They have fought against the stream. Sometimes even within their own families, they have had to go against their family expectation for the cause of Christ and the service of the church."

"They are not doing something that leads the average person on the street to give them congratulations."



The six presidents spoke strongly about the expansion of women's programs on all six campuses and an affirmation they said was either misleading or lacking in the past.

"They're being trained to do something that they are going to be able to do," Crews said. "The problem before is that they were training them for things that [weren't] going to happen, and the frustration that built up was directed toward the seminary, not toward the church that called them, but toward the seminary who made a promise that 'if you'll do this, you'll be qualified and then you'll pastor a church,' and that wasn't going to happen."

Kelley said 15-20 years ago there was no Southern Baptist doctrinal statement that even addressed women. He said the BF&M 2000 "affirmed the significance and value and dignity and respect of women."

Kelley light-heartedly pointed out his presidency holds "the distinction of having built more women's bathrooms than any other president in the history of New Orleans," due to the increase in the number of women on campus.



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Editor's note: The logo for Southern Seminary was not available at press deadline.

